

EAQAC Minutes

November 3, 2010

Absent: Jody Foster, Naomi Friedman, Ted Sears, Sam Raker

Meeting convened at 7:10 pm

Chairman's comments:

- Since the minutes are now going on the website, full names will be used.
- Ideas for discussion should come from all members, throughout the month, not just in the few days before each meeting.

New Initiatives

SmartWay Presentation:

Paul Bubbosh proposed that EAQAC could prompt the County Council to encourage the business community to join SmartWay through outreach. He outlined the program:

SmartWay is a EPA program designed to save fuel, money and the environment. It addresses both carriers and shippers and offers several ways to certify vehicles in the program. Detailed information can be found at <http://www.epa.gov/smartwaylogistics/index.htm>.

All businesses in MoCo interact to some degree with trucking companies. If the County Council asks local businesses to prioritize delivery by SmartWay certified vehicles, DEP could carry out outreach to track changes, using tools developed by EPA. This could be incorporated into the Green Business Certification program.

During the discussion following Paul's presentation, Bernie Bloom commented that a decrease in diesel particulates from this program would have minimal health effects on the community.

EAQAC members voted to pursue this matter.

GHG Inventory:

Ken Cantor suggested that MoCo should have an inventory of alternative energy installations, such as solar and geothermal. This could be used as a planning tool and for education purposes. Eric Coffman (DEP) said that they do have installation information on solar power for

Pepco customers, and they could probably get it from BG&E. There is no record of geothermal heat pump installations, but this could be obtained from DPS.

DEP Update:

EmPower Maryland was approved two years ago. Each utility operation in MoCo (Pepco, BG&E, Allegheny) developed their own programs to implement it. The Public Service Committee is evaluating these programs for potential changes in 2012. Comments on the programs are invited by EAQAC in advance of DEP's presentation to the PSC on December 2nd.

Some differences between the utilities programs were highlighted by Eric Coffman:

- Some web-based pages easier to navigate than others
- Disconnects in how program works for different communities
- Lack of consistency between programs
- Publicity of programs varies

Jim McDonnell agreed to undertake the review on behalf of EAQAC.

The meeting was adjourned at 9.00 pm.